

**Appln No. 10/767,875**  
**Amdt date January 13, 2006**  
**Reply to Office action of August 15, 2005**

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Cancel).
2. (Cancel).
3. (Cancel).
4. (Cancel).
5. (Cancel).
6. (Cancel).
7. (Cancel).
8. (Cancel).
9. (Cancel).
10. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery in which a total amount of gas is generated during initial charging, wherein the gas generated has a CO content of 30 volume % or less, and further wherein the gas generated has a H<sub>2</sub> content of 0.2 volume % or less, the rechargeable lithium battery comprising a negative electrode comprising a negative

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active material and an aqueous binder, the aqueous binder comprising a butadiene-based rubber and a cellulose-based compound.

11. (Cancel).

12. (New) A rechargeable lithium battery comprising:

a positive electrode;

a negative electrode comprising a negative active material and an aqueous binder, the aqueous binder comprising a butadiene-based rubber and a cellulose-based compound; and

a separator;

wherein a total amount of gas is generated during initial charging, wherein the gas generated has a CO content of 30 volume % or less, and further wherein the gas generated has a H<sub>2</sub> content of 0.2 volume % or less.